PACE WORLD

President's Column
By Jeff Cleveland

ST or not ST
... that is the question

Like many other 8-bit Atari users, I have been considering switching from an 8-bit to an ST. I made up my mind once to buy one, and then decided not to. Again, I find myself seriously considering buying an ST.

The first time I considered purchasing an ST was when Atari announced the 1040 ST. "Imagine a one megabyte machine," I thought to myself. It would take the memory of 16 800XLs to equal the memory of that one machine.

So I worked (survived?) 50 to 60 hour work weeks at Busch Gardens to earn the $1000 I needed to buy one. But somewhere along the way I decided that my 8-bit system would do everything I needed a computer to do. So, I stuck with my XE, not wanting to have to learn a totally new machine. It took me three years to learn all about the 8-bits and how to effectively program them. How long would it take me to learn all about a new machine that is many time more complex than the XE?

But, ST fever has bitten me again. The Mega ST is an impressive machine. It can come with two or four megabytes of memory, a detached keyboard that has a better feel (one of the things I hate most about current STs-- keyboard feel) and the blitter chip built in. I could do any programming project for school on one and not have to worry about running out of memory. But, I found out this week that a monochrome Mega ST 2 will retail for over $1,500. I just thought I could afford one.

Random Ramblings

I spoke to Dave Koster, and he said that we are doing well with the raffle. The drawing date is getting closer, so if you want to buy tickets, do it soon.

This month's meeting will be the first of many joint meetings with the southside users group, STATUS. They will be coming to our meeting, where we will be featuring the best of the ST. Remember that the meeting time has been changed from 6:00 to 7:00. I hope to have STs set up running some of the i software available for it. It will also be a preview of some of the demonstrations we will taking to the Hamfest in October. If you are interested in helping to man the booth, please contact me or an ex-comm member.

PACE DATES

1987

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
SEPT						
13	14	15	16	17	18 ATARI MEETING 6:00 PM	19
20 Happy Birthday SF	21 FALL IS HERE	22	23	24 PACE CAPE MAY SIG	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2 SWAP NIGHT	3
OCT						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 COMIC PACE	12	13	14	15	16 PACE 6:00	17

RAFFLE UPDATE!

We've collected nearly $700.00 so far, a sizable sum. Some of the real go-getters with 30+ tickets sold are Jim Anderson, Jerry Phillips, Bill Parisi, Charlie and Glennel Fullman, and Dave Williams. These folks have really been PACE boosters and deserve much more than just applause. They deserve...let's see... something appropriate...GOT IT! After next meeting the whole group will go to each of their homes, one at a time, and toast them! We unwrapped Gloria Dei's computer last month but will present it officially at the drawing. Remember the drawing will be at the PACE/STATUS joint open house/meeting on September 18th (7:00PM, don't forget!), so get those remaining tickets sold! Have you asked ALL the relatives? EVERYONE at work? Do people hide when they see you coming? Please try to get the money you've collected and the (few) remaining tickets to me before the 18th. I'll meet anyone halfway, just give me a call. Failing that, we absolutely need the stuff on the 18th. Try to come early so I can total everything up before the drawing, I'll be there. There's still time to pick some tickets up from me and sell them. If you haven't tried, we could really use your help. Just give me a call anytime, if you can sell them I'll deliver! Thanks again to all those who have helped Gloria Dei and PACE by selling tickets. Helping is what PACE is all about, and you've proved it!

dave koster 838-9614

Hello all, you have the ol' team of Joe Cullen and Linda Marks here (brought back by popular demand) to explain the definitions of the most common terms used in our club and in computing in general. Of course, I had to travel all the way to New Jersey to get Linda's help with this assignment and for future reference: Next time I come up here I will take passengers to help with expenses! Hear that Maria?

Ok, now on to the fun at hand.

"BOOT" refers to footware or the more popular meaning is loading a program from the disk or cassette into the computer's memory. Or to kick someone out of your house or someone else's.

"BOOT ERROR" is when your shoes don't match your outfit or you wear your left shoe on your right foot and visa versa, which by the way hurts according to Linda! Or, boot error can refer to a disk not booting because of no operating system, a bug on the disk, a non-formatted disk being booted, and many other problems. Please call either NASA, RONALD REAGAN, OR "OLLIE" NORTH who will probably not be able to help you but just think if you get through!

"BUG" is a little fellow that infests your house, yard, and yes, even your programs. It is a problem and should be taken care of as soon as possible even if you need to go to the "DOCS". BUGS in your program will cause it to "crash" sooner or later.

"BYTE" is the breaking off of a piece of a sandwich or meal to consume. Tasty too. Or again, more commonly, a piece of data. A byte can represent a character in a program. Of course, we all know it takes eight bits to make a byte, and you should chew your food 15 to 25 times before swallowing so a normal meal should last a lifetime.

"CRASH" is to fall down real hard! Or, crash is the failure of a program to execute properly because of a "bug" or a bug and some of his buddies. They are party animals!

"DE-BUG" is when you get mad (or in computerese "pissed") and you pick up the phone and call the "ORKIN" man. This kills or cleans those pesky little fellows from your programs and allows them to work properly. Of course you could just knock them out or step over them ("hack") and leave them to whoever you give a copy of your program to.

"DENSITY" refers a measurement of something as compared to the weight of water, according to "MR. WIZARD". Or, in formatting a disk it could refer to single density (88K on a side), enhanced density (126K on a side), or on modified drives there is double density (176K on a side). If you are still foolish enough to use DOS 3 which has 133K on a side. If you did not understand this you are dense!

"DOCS" refers to Family Practitioners that charge you an arm and a leg to fix an arm and a leg such as good ol' Marcus Welby. Or docs stands for the more common "documentation". Docs are simply instructions for a program, technique, upgrade, etc. Please see your Doc at least once a year, Dentist at least twice.

"DOS" refers to DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION or the more common Disk Operating System. This is the menu driven aid to the user to enable many functions of a disk drive. Oh, don't forget trash day is Tuesday and Friday in Cape May, New Jersey.

"FORMAT" is the mat in front of your house as opposed to the backmat on the back porch. Or, format refers to organizing a disk into tracks and sectors via a disk drive to prepare it so you can "write" information upon it. Format can also refer to the golf course. You may yell "FOR MATT" when you hit the ball in Matt's direction.

"HAPPY" is when you turn your computer on, sad when you turn it off. Or, Happy refers to modified disk drives that are able to "back-up" software. They are extremely fast, capable of all three densities, and are a joy to own. Call your dealer today!

"INTERFACE" is the expression on your face between being happy and sad. Or more commonly the device that enables your computer to "talk" to other devices such as a modem or printer. The more popular interfaces include the 850, MIO, PR:Connection, and ATR8000. Put on a happy interface.

"LANGUAGE" is "what-I'm-talking-to-ya-son", are ya listening? Habla Espanol? Que Pasa? There are many languages available for the Atari computers. Some include French, Spanish, English, Italian, ...oops, no I meant BASIC, ACTION!, PASCAL, LISP, FORTRAN, ASSEMBLY, MACHINE, so on and so on. These "languages" enable you to "talk" to your computer and give it instructions.

"MENU" is that little piece of cardboard that they give you at restaurants that can't be read by any one except from France and they leave out the prices so when you do get your bill you have to call your Broker and sell all of your IBM stocks. Or it is a user friendly (ha ha ha heeee) listing on your screen of what you can do, legally, with the program at hand.

"PROGRAM" is the listing in the TV guide of what "I LOVE LUCY" show you can watch at 2, 3, 5, 6:30, 8, 10, 1, etc. Or, program can refer to a series of statements that make your computer do strange and weird things so you can play that 10 millionth game of PACMAN.

"RAM" is a male sheep - got to tell ya everything, huh? Of course RAM also stands or sits for "RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY" which refers to memory stuff that I have forgotten about... now what was I talking about....???
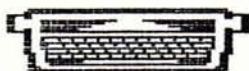
"ROM" is the brother to "RAM". Or in computerese ROM is "READ ONLY MEMORY". This being memory locations that have particular values that you can "peek" at. Hit the programming books for a full understanding of this little guy.

"RUN" refers to very fast walking or the more popular meaning is making the program execute within the computer. Also, run as refered to in "Run, it's the cops."

Well, I have to get back to Hampton so I can get back to work so I can pay my bills and keep the wife happy. Linda has to send her kid off to school and prepare to watch all of the soap operas that are on during the day. So stay tuned for another exciting article by us two crazy and computer-illiterate individuals sometime in the future. By the way there is some valid information in this article, but just some. Say in about 10 to 20 years for I am going to kill Linda! Where did I put my Rambo knife....

Joe Cullen & Linda Marks

ASSISTANT EDITOR'S PAGE

by Steve Fishbein

FORMS GENERATOR

Forms Generator, written by Jeff Brenner and distributed by Twenty-Fifth Century Software, is a handy program that enables the user to design any type of form, including a program to calculate extended prices.

Creating a form from scratch does require a great deal of time, and that doesn't take into account additional time needed to program the calculations.

I borrowed the program from Rafael Benet in order to review it and I should express his disappointment that only one sample form was included with the program disk. A disk with a variety of prepared forms can be ordered at an additional cost.

Forms is a WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) program. In addition to normal text it is also ossible to use control characters to nhance the form.

A text form will fill the page while the size with graphics depends on the printer being used.

Preparation of a form normally requires typing a lot of lines on a page, but Brenner has included a routine to put a character or line completely across the page. Excess characters can then be deleted, which would be faster than having to type in a line or string of the same character.

Even more helpful is a routine to add a vertical line. If the | character (SHIFT =) is used with "Forms" the carriage advances so a vertical line can be typed in just by using that key combination.

Forms Generator might be a handy program for a business or an organization, but I don't think the expense of the program and sample forms would be of value in the normal home.

NEW RELEASES

Two more new programs have been released by Datasoft for eight-bit Ataris recently. The second in the Alternate Reality series, "The Dungeon," has been released and characters from the original program, "The City," may be used.

Video Title Shop is also being advertised for the eight-bit machines, a program that is designed for use with your VCR. Titles, with graphics, can be created with Title Shop. Datasoft is now one of the EA companies.

Springboard Software has announced plans to release both Certificate Maker and Newsroom for the eight-bit Ataris. Certificate Maker will be a welcome addition to any Atari library, but Newsroom would require a lot of changes from the original to even begin to match News Station.

NEWS STATION COMPANION

This page has been prepared with News Station, News Station Companion and PaperClip.

The banner at the top was created using the Companion plate manipulator, which took the original plate and enlarged it to cover 80 columns instead of 40.

After writing the copy (using PaperClip) I set margins for double column printing, matching the columns with the size of the News Station plates. The file was saved as a print file in Ascii, with these margins, and then converted into News Station plates, using the Companion routine.

Finally, the plates were loaded and printed using News Station.

COMING SOON

The Christmas issue of Antic will feature an article on programs using Print Shop icons. Editor Nat Friedland called me last month to request some additional material for an article I had submitted previously, a review and some tips for using News Station and Publishing Pro, both of which use icons, along with News Station Companion. I understand the PACE calendar used last month in the newsletter, will be reprinted as part of the article.

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PACE MEETS AT GLORIA DEI SCHOOL

LOCATED ON FOX HILL ROAD OPPOSITE FROM WILLOW OAKS SHOPPING CENTER, HAMPTON, VIRGINIA ON THE FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

P.A.C.E. WORLD

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PLEASE   PLEASE   PLEASE
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